

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-17 and 19-53 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1, 11-16, 19, and 26-30 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 2-10, 17, 18, and 20-25 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Claims 31-53 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 14, 15, and 19 are rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his close reading of the claims. In response, Applicant has made minor amendments to correct an inadvertent clerical error in the numbering of the claims. Specifically, Claims 14 and 15 are amended to depend from Claim 13, and Claim 19 is amended to depend from amended Claim 1, corresponding to former Claim 18. Applicant believes that no new matter has been introduced by the amendments, and thus requests entry of the amendment. Applicant further believes the amendments overcome the rejections, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of Claims 14, 15, and 19.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102, 103

Claims 1, 11, 16, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cliff et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,550,782 ("Cliff"). Claims 12, 13, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cliff in view of Hamada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,373,291 ("Hamada"). In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the features of canceled Claim 18, which was objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim by indicated as otherwise allowable.

Therefore, Applicant believes Claim 1, as amended, is in form for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claim 1.

Claims 11-13, 16, and 26-30 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. For the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes Claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, for at least the same reasons, Applicant believes Claims 11-13, 16, and 26-30 are also allowable, and allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

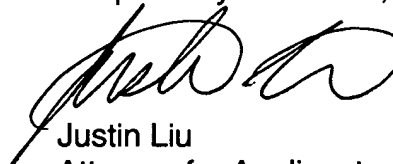
Objections

Claims 2-10, 17, and 20-25 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement of allowable subject matter. Applicant believes that all rejections have been overcome by the above amendments and that these objections have therefore also been overcome. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 2-10, 17, and 20-25.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that Claims 1-17 and 19-53 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 21, 2005.

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Name


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